**Indo-Iranian Joint Venture in Steel Sector**

1696. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for the setting up of Indo-Iranian Joint Venture in Steel Sector; and

(b) If so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was concluded during the visit of Secretary (Steel) to Iran in October 1993 which inter-alia envisages the establishment of a joint venture between M/s. Ascotech a subsidiary of National Iranian Steel Company. and Kudremukh ron O re Company Limited (KIOCL) and Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Limited (MECON) of India for providing technical services in Iran India and third Countries, The proposal is being pursued with the Iranian authorities.

**Increase in prices of steel products by sail**

1697. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL proposes to raise the prices of its steel products substantially;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether at this price the Indian industry consuming steel will remain competitive both at home and abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Prices of iron & steel materials have been revised by SAIL w.e.f. 1-3-1994 on account of revision of Excise Duty. The details of this revision are as under :—

| | As on 28-2-94 | w.e.f., 1-3-94 |
|---|---|---|
| Pig Iron | Rs. 500 per tonne | 10% ad-valorem |
| *Steel* | | |
| Long Products | Rs. 1000 per tonne | 15% -do- |
| Flat Products | 12.5% ad-valorem | 15% -do- |

Prices of iron & steel materials are reviewed/ revised by SAIL from time to time depending on various factors like cost of production, Government policies, market forces etc. prevailing at that point of time. The Indian Industries including those consuming steel get MODVAT benefits on excise duty, as such they will not be adversely affected by the recent price rise on account of revision in Excise duty.

**नए इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना किया जाना**

1698. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस्पात की मांग को पूरा करने हेतु नए इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित करने की दिशा में कोई प्रयास नहीं किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा नए संयंत्र स्थापित किए जाने के संबंध में क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं ?

**इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव)** : (क) से (ग) संसाधनों की अड़चनों के कारण केन्द्र सरकार का आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान सरकारी क्षेत्र में कोई नया इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित करने